

Application No. 09/758,949
Amendment dated October 11, 2005

Docket No.: 102323-0061

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of the Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A digital data system comprising
- a plurality of nodes interconnected by at least one link,
- the nodes being configured to communicate message packets on the link, each message packet having a format and a plurality of symbols that are transmitted by a first node on the link and received by a second node on the link, wherein the message packet is aligned in relation to a frame signal,
- at least one of said first and said second nodes being configured to communicate a link level control symbol,
- the link level control symbol being interposed between symbols of a message packet as an additional symbol to signal an adjacent node on the link,
- such that the adjacent node receives the additional symbol before completion of the message packet to effect a link level control of message flow on the link
- wherein said additional symbol is asserted with a marker whereby the adjacent node detects the control symbol within the message packet to effect said link level control of message flow
- wherein a node transmits the interposed control symbol in alignment with a symbol boundary in a message packet, whereby received data may be passed through a register

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of fixed size and the control symbol is discerned via the marker, permitting alignment of portions of a message packet irrespective of interposition of the control symbol therebetween.

Claims 10-23 (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A digital data system according to claim 9, wherein at least one node includes at least one of
 - (i) an input buffer that at least temporarily stores a received message, and
 - (ii) an output buffer that at least temporarily stores a message for transmission,and the control symbol effects a link level control to prevent buffer overflow.
25. (Previously Presented) A digital data system according to claim 9, wherein a message includes an error code for detecting corruption of a received message, and a receiving node that receives two portions of a message packet surrounding a control symbol realigns the received portions to apply the error code to the two portions of the message packet surrounding the control symbol.
26. (Previously Presented) A digital data system according to claim 9, wherein the control symbol instructs a receiving node to reduce its message transmission rate.
27. (Previously Presented) A digital data system according to claim 9, wherein the control symbol includes a control code for identifying one of
 - i) a faulty message transmission, and
 - ii) a faulty message reception.

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28. (Previously Presented) A digital data system according to claim 9, wherein the link is bi-directional, and interconnects the first node at one end of the link with the second node at another end of the link, said first and second nodes being full duplex nodes.
29. (Previously Presented) A digital data system according to claim 25, where in the control symbol instructs the adjacent node to reduce its message transmission rate by transmitting a specified number of idle states so as to match receiver capacity to transmission rate.
30. (Previously Presented) A digital data system according to claim 9, comprising a plurality of links forming an interconnect fabric among plural devices, the links interconnecting, and wherein each link has one node attached to one end of the link and another node attached to another end of the link, the nodes cooperating to route messages along interconnected links between the devices of the system.

Claims 31-41 (Canceled)